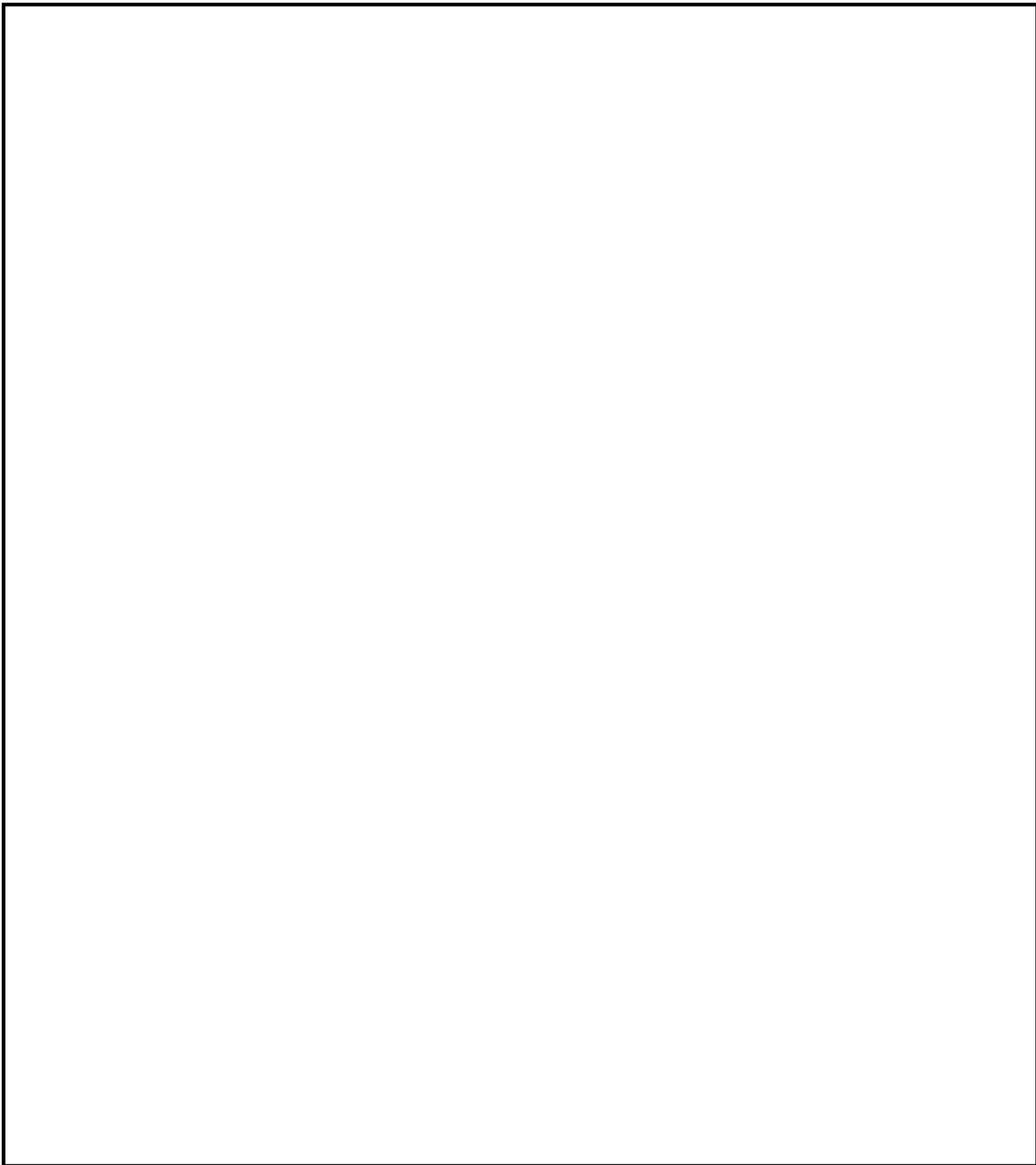


CONTACT

MAGAZINE FOR AND ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE 349TH AIR MOBILITY WING
TRAVIS AIR FORCE BASE, CALIFORNIA

VOL. 17, No. 7

AUGUST 1999



COMMANDER'S CORNER

by Col. Gerald A. Black
349th AMW Commander

For many of you, I know that these past few months have been pretty hectic...Kosovo ops, Operation Southern Watch, Air Expo, etc. I want to sincerely thank you for your hard work and dedication, not only to this wing but to our country.

Another group I want to thank are the employers. They have shown incredible support throughout this year and I am grateful. One of the best opportunities that we've had this year to show our appreciation has been through the annual Employer Appreciation Days. We've already had three very successful days this year. I understand that the employer/employee relationship can be rocky at times, especially when Reservists are called upon to spend more and more time at the base.

According to a recent survey from the Air Force Reserve Command, employer support for Air Force reservists nationwide stayed strong with the exception of aircrews. Employers were slightly less supportive in 1998 than 1996 of the flying reservist because of the average annual commitment of 100-110 days a year.

As a reservist, if you have employment problems, there are some things you should keep in mind.

First, educate your employer about his or her rights and responsibilities. A majority of employers don't have experience with the military so they may not know what is expected of them. Many are surprised that the law requires them to let a reservist off for all official duty and that they can't demand a certain lead-time for notification of official duty or require a reservist to take annual leave for military duty. For more information on your rights, contact Public Affairs.

Second, educate yourself. Know your rights. If you encounter employer problems, work to resolve them. If you need help, talk to your unit or the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve ombudsman service. Public Affairs can get you in touch with the ombudsman.

Foster the cooperation of your employer so that together, we can get the job done. ✈

COMMAND CHIEF MASTER SERGEANT'S CORNER

by Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux
349th AMW Command Chief Master Sergeant

A successful career is usually a team effort involving both personal commitment and outside support. A large part of preparing and mentoring our people in their career is ensuring they receive timely and appropriate awards and decorations. I believe that high awards and decoration rates in a unit are the sign of a healthy organization and reflect an effective team effort. Because this program directly impacts morale and builds esprit de corps, we must formally recognize our people who have gone "above and beyond" to accomplish the mission.

Awards and decorations are becoming even more important to our people since their individual awards and decorations are being considered by the Promotion Enhancement Program, 12 Outstanding Airmen of the Year, and NCO and Senior NCO Academy selection boards.

Awards and decorations are also considered when applying for special assignments or tours of duty. We must consider the high degree of competition and the difficulty in making a selection during one of these processes. Many times the difference between being denied or selected

could be this element of the entire package. Therefore, it is imperative our top people receive their deserved proper recognition to be competitive.

It is also important that all our enlisted people, regardless of rank and position, get appropriate awards and decorations. Yes our airman and junior NCOs need awards and decorations, but I believe it is just as important for our First Sergeants, Chiefs and other Senior NCOs. We all see too many people deserving a decoration who are receiving their medal at their retirement. We must all work together to fix this. It takes time and a lot of effort to complete a good package. However, we have people right here in our wing that will help us.

The OPR for this program is our Military Personnel Flight's Career Enhancement Section. Master Sgt. Nelson Bonilla and his staff are ready, willing and able to assist anyone with questions or concerns about this program. We must always remember that our people are at the center of all we do. Meeting their needs is not only essential to maintaining readiness, it is the right thing to do. ✈

CONTACT

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PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. ROBIN JACKSON

Demise of Weekend Warrior

By Charles L. Cragin

Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs

Special to the American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — President Clinton recently authorized Secretary of Defense William Cohen to order some 33,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve to active duty in support of NATO operations in and around the former Yugoslavia. Nearly 6,000 were called to duty.

The 1.4 million men and women who serve in our Reserve components—the Army and Air National Guard, Army Reserve, Naval Reserve, Air Force Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve—represent one-half of our nation’s total military might, and they are an integral and vital part of today’s Total Force. But that was not always the case, as evidenced by the terminology used to describe reservists during the Cold War, when those who served in the reserve were often referred to as “weekend warriors.”

During the Cold War, when the term was arguably more suitable, our forces were easily identified as being either active or reserve. Around the world and around the clock, the active forces were the ones we relied on to get the job done. Meanwhile, our reserve forces were simply that: they waited in reserve, ready for re-call to active duty if or when our adversaries struck in Europe or Asia.

But times have changed dramatically since the Cold War ended, and today reservists are standing tall around the globe, courageously defending our interests in an uncertain world. In Bosnia, over 20,000 men and women of the National Guard and Reserve have helped bring peace to a divided and devastated land.

In Central America, thousands

are helping our southern neighbors recover from the awful aftermath of two destructive hurricanes, drilling wells and building roads, bridges, schools and clinics. In Southwest Asia, they are helping enforce the no-fly zones over Iraq.

In the post-Cold War era, we have come to rely heavily on our

National Guard and Reserve, not just as reserve forces in waiting but as critical contributors to the work of the Total Force. As a result, we don’t really have a reserve anymore. Although we can use the same word, there should now be a different emphasis on the syllables—a different emphasis to reflect a different type of force, a force that is composed of people who “re-serve” on a continual basis. The men and women of the National Guard and Reserve have re-served in the Persian Gulf, in Somalia, in Haiti and in Bosnia. And recently, in the skies over Kosovo, they were out front, re-serving side by side with the active force.

Last year, those who “re-served” contributed over 13 million duty days

to active component missions and exercises, which is the equivalent of adding nearly 35,000 personnel to the active force, or two Army divisions.

This was the fifth presidential call-up of reserves since the Cold War ended. President Clinton authorized a reserve call-up in 1994 for humanitarian operations in Haiti; in 1995 for peacekeeping operations in Bosnia; and in 1998 for the enforcement of no-fly zones over Iraq. President George Bush invoked a similar authority in August 1990 for operations during the Gulf War.

These are compelling facts and figures any way you view them, but what they ultimately show is that we cannot undertake sustained operations anywhere in the world without the National Guard and Reserve. Every day around the globe thousands of active duty men and women in uniform risk their lives and make tremendous sacrifices in the national interest.

Increasingly, reservists are there alongside, serving extended tours away from their homes, families and jobs. These absences place great strains on the relationships between employers and their employees who serve our nation in uniform. The Department of Defense continues to seek new ways to reach out to employers, and is working hard to minimize the disruptions and hardships associated with reserve service.

At a time when we are calling reservists to active duty, we should be grateful for the patriotism and support shown by their employer, and we should remember that the increased reliance on the Guard and Reserve in the post-Cold War era has helped dictate the demise of the weekend warrior. ✈

Call to duty..jury duty

By Staff Sgt. Patti Holloway

I recently got “the call to duty.” No, not the kind that comes to mind for military people. I’m talking about jury duty. When I received the jury selection notice I started the usual whining “Jury duty! I just did jury duty! Man, I can’t believe this...”

In reality, it has been several years since I received “the call” and I am sure the outstanding court system of Solano County called me in as a last resort. I mean, they must realize how important my being at work is to the defense of this great country! We were at war (Kosovo) for heaven sakes! – But the judge wasn’t buying it. Anyway, the fighting men and women of the U.S. military pulled it off quite nicely without my help – although, I am assured it was tougher without me.

So, if you have never had the honor of serving your county in this manner, let me give you a brief outline on how this works. Disgruntled citizens gather at the assigned courthouse by 8:00 a.m. If you want to find parking, I highly suggest you head there now. Yes, now! You can finish reading the Contact when you get there! OK, maybe it’s not that bad.

You are herded into a big room with lots of chairs, but not enough chairs for everyone. At least seven people have to stand. I even heard the clerk talking “Glades, quick, go take out five chairs! We have to comply with the “Seven People Standing” rule!” I’ve decided this is because they never want to give the impression that they actually know the number of people coming in ... “Oh, what a nice surprise! Look Glades, 350 people just happen to show up at the courthouse today. Well, it’s obvious we weren’t expecting you or we would have had enough chairs.” (This is a subliminal message to relay that it is not their fault you had to put your life on hold or it may be just a power issue.)

After you have fought your way into a chair, they lecture you on “rules of engagement.” I would tell you what they are, but truthfully, after I found out where the coffee and restrooms were, I pretty much tuned them out.

Then they hold you hostage until the judge comes up with something tempting enough for your release to the courtroom. “OK, Bertha, if you release the “Prospective Jury Members,” I’ll get you that fluffy chair cushion that you want.” “Well, Judge Smith, that is tempting, and if you throw in two “off early Fridays,” you’ve got yourself a deal!” These negotiations can go on from two hours,

upwards to a decade.

After a successful deal has been struck, you and about 349 other PJMs, are then corralled into the courtroom. This is where you’re entered into a lottery. Believe me, this is the one time in your life you’re thinking, “Please don’t let me win, please, don’t let me win....” There are 349 other people; no way they are picking you, and to cinch it, the lady next to you (the talkative one with bad breath) has confessed that serving on a jury is her life long dream. But of course, Murphy’s Law being at its strongest in the courtroom, your name is called and the lady’s next to you isn’t.

Now, the “PJM” are asked a few background questions in order to assist the judge and lawyers in determining who are the “good” jurors. This is an interesting concept. They are somehow able to determine from a few simple questions if you are capable of “fair” judgement. Actually, I think they

determine how little you want to be there and if they are convinced you would rather be having a root canal – then you’re in!

After they pick twelve jurors and two alternates, the show begins. We have all seen court scenes on TV or in the movies, well, it really is a lot

like that. There is plenty of story telling, hand gestures, lame excuses and eye rolling. And that is just from the prospective jurors...

All kidding aside, it was a wonderful experience. I learned a lot about the workings of our court system and how each person has the opportunity to explain and support his or her view of the same situation. But I must say, the thing that stood out most in my mind was how much respect and concern was shown to each one of us on the jury. I felt the court truly did appreciate the sacrifice each one of us was making to perform our duty.

I don’t want to get into too much detail on the case nor do I want to give away how we twelve jurors judged. In short, some whiney individual decided that the poor person who had “bumped” into the back of his car, at a speed not more than 2.5 miles per hour (per his own admission), without enough impact to even scratch his bumper, wanted twelve of us hard working Americans to award him over \$250,000.00 for his “pain and suffering.”

How did we find? Let me just say that at the end of six days of trial, we were unanimous in having no guilt about what we ruled. My faith in my fellow Americans and the judicial system has been renewed.

So, if you ever get the opportunity to serve on a jury, I hope you will see what this experience has taught me. It shouldn’t be viewed as an obligation, but as a true privilege! ✈

**“Jury duty! I just did jury duty!
Man, I can’t believe this...”**

War skills lab prepares 349th

by Technical Sgt. Kevin Jackson

Photos by Staff Sgt. Robin Jackson

It's been nearly nine years since Desert Storm. Attrition has robbed the armed forces of invaluable experience gained in Saudi Arabia, but Capt. Ed Sanchez has a plan to reverse that trend for the 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron. It's called the War Skills Lab.

"Our people lose sight of their wartime mission when all we do is give physicals, hearing tests and shots in the traditional peacetime mission," he said. "We have a few NCOs and other key people who have deployed so we want to pass on some of that experience before we retire. We want them to gain experience, but we also want to integrate the different medical skills."

Unlike a civilian medical facility, the War Skills Lab enables physicians, nurses, respiratory therapists, pharmacists, medical technicians and people with other specialties to work close together during the six-month training program. It begins with an introduction to the squadron's wartime mission before concentrating on individual skill sustainment. The final phase, which they were practicing on July 11, is readiness training for contingency operations.

"I try to foster with the students, especially the

people who have never been in a deployment situation, that it's different standing in a nice clean classroom and then all of a sudden having to do that same task in an austere environment," said Maj. Fawn McCloud, officer-in-charge of the War Skills Lab. "It's almost disorienting. So if you put them in that environment and simulate it as close as possible it gives them a sense of reality."

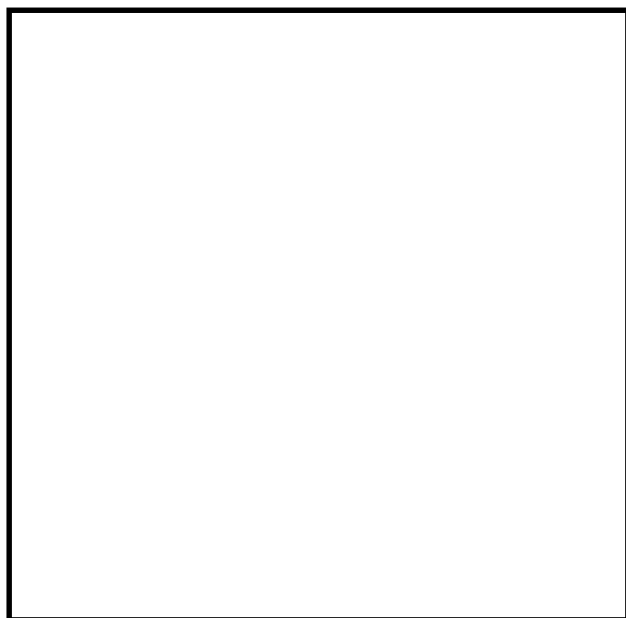
That is exactly what the ASTS has achieved with the unique medical exhibit it has assembled at the Travis Air Museum. Two years ago McCloud approached the museum's curator about assembling an exhibit to show the Air Force's medical mission. Six months ago, the squadron's air reserve technicians began collecting available equipment. The exhibit was completed just in time for the Travis AFB Air Expo and Open House in June.

The medical exhibit will serve a dual purpose. While it will educate the public about the Air Force's often-overshadowed medical mission, it also provides the squadron with a realistic training environment.

The exhibit space includes netting, litters and other medical equipment, and is camouflaged and surrounded by sandbags.

"This is a win-win situation for the museum and our people," Sanchez said. "It's a facility that can be used by our squadron for training because it's like a facility we would use in war. Our mission requires us to use facilities as they present themselves in a real world situation."

The squadron will use the exhibit it has assembled on Sundays, when the museum is closed to the public, in future War Skills Lab rotations. But on



Staff Sgt. Rochelle L. Underwood, health services assistant (right) and Technical Sgt. Gilda R. Nunley-Jackson (left), medical administration supervisor, review paperwork during the war skills lab exercise.

1st. Lt. Donna M. Bertolli, clinical nurse, Staff assistant and Technical Sgt. Owenia A. Boykin, patient on a litter to shelter while Capt. Christin

ASTS for wartime mission

July 11, with the temperature on base soaring to 108 degrees, the squadron is occupying the barren Motorcycle Safety/Disaster Preparedness facility at building 1204.

Squadron medical personnel are in the final phase of their training — readiness. Just as it would in wartime, the ASTS is meeting patients in need of medical care on an arriving C-141 “Starlifter” aircraft, off-loading them and transporting them to the makeshift air medical staging facility. There they are receiving the appropriate medical care and are then being stabilized before being transported

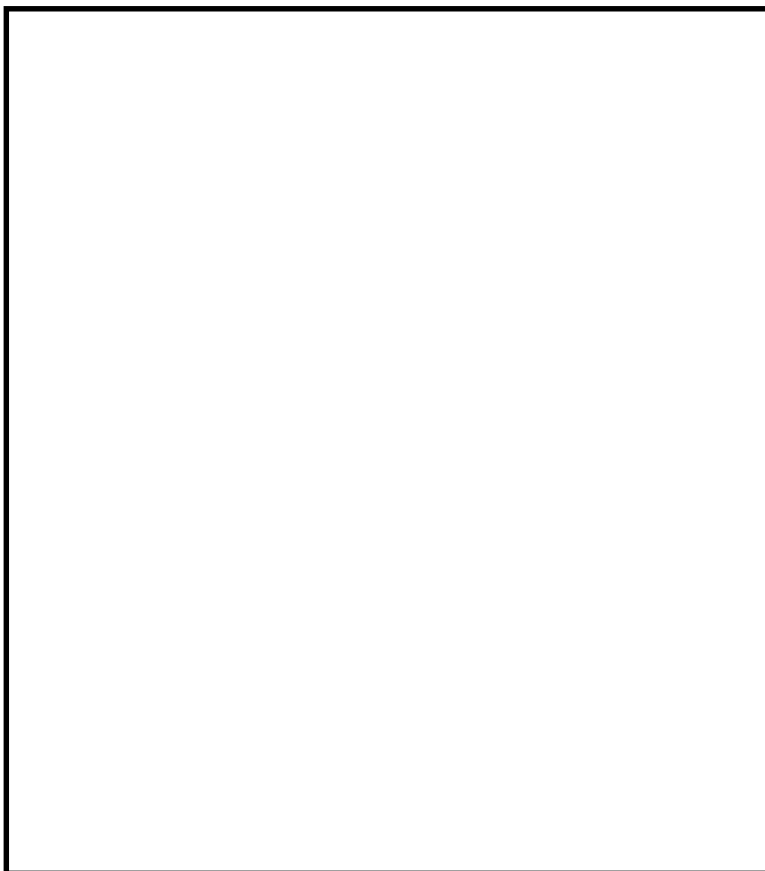
to a military treatment or civilian healthcare facility.

Urgency is in the air. The medical staff is hurriedly providing the care required for each patient. The venue has taken on the appearance of an airport terminal with the exception of the people receiving desperately

needed medical attention.

The staff has even improvised a pharmacy, which is secured to ensure people don’t get a hold of narcotics. Different colored jellybeans are being administered as the specific drugs required for each patient’s care. The patients are particularly challenging for the medical staff.

“It was very stressful in a way, especially when we had to restrain the psychotic patient, but it was a good learning environment,” said Capt. Theresa Spry, a 349th ASTS nurse. “I’m sure this is realistic, like what we could expect in a war – too many patients and



Bertolli, Arcilla, Boykins, and Staff Sgt. Johnny Yu, medical service assistant, lift injured patients off bus.

not enough hands.

“It was a very good experience. It helps to see my wartime mission firsthand; not just talking about it, but participating in it.” The training was no small task. Directing the exercise for one-third of the ASTS medical staff was left to Master Sgt. Tim Healey, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of training. He was responsible for orchestrating the entire training exercise. Squadron members appreciate the realistic training they have received.

“This exercise went very well and everyone worked well together,” said Senior Airman Denise Rodriguez, 349th ASTS medical logistics. “Every training opportunity we have helps to prepare us for a wartime environment.”

Desert Storm may be an unfamiliar experience to many members, but Sanchez and other key leaders are doing their best to ensure that the ASTS is trained and ready to respond should the squadron be called upon in the future. ✈

*Sgt. Jeffrey E. Arcilla, medical administration
s, medical service supervisor, carry injured
na L. Booker, clinical nurse, observes.*

One of our own wins flight surgeon of year

By Technical Sgt. Marvin Meek

Members of the 312th Airlift Squadron refer to her as “Doc Anna” because they trust her. The desire to earn that trust is what motivates the Air Force Reserve's Outstanding Flight Surgeon of the Year.

Doc Anna is Col. Anna M. McHargue, chief, Aerospace Medicine Services for the 349th Contingency Hospital. She was recently named as the Air Force Reserve Command nominee for the Malcolm C. Grow Award, which is given annually to the most outstanding flight surgeon in Air Force.

McHargue, a native of La Grange, Ky., has logged more than 3,500 flying hours during her 24 years in the Air Force Reserve and has rewritten Air Force history along the way.

Being the Air Force Reserve Command's first female flight surgeon; first female flight surgeon at Travis AFB; first flight surgeon to land on every continent in a C-5; and hand-picked as the flight surgeon for Operation Deep Freeze, a deployment to Antarctica, are just a few of her major accomplishments.

Her impressive resume of accomplishments may have impressed the award's judges, but the 349th Air Mobility Wing judges on something else.

McHargue has served as the

flight surgeon for numerous members of the 349th AMW, but primarily for the 200 members of the 312th Airlift Squadron. She has been attached to them, for flying purposes, for more than 20 years and has logged more than 3,000 flight hours with them. To them she's more than just a physician.



Col. Anna M. McHargue

“There is no way to list all the things Doc Anna has done to help our people maintain their health,” said Lt. Col. Frank J. Padilla, commander, 312th AS. “She has certainly earned our trust.”

“People in the Air Force Reserve tend to stay in their unit longer, so I get to work with the same flyers for a long time,” said McHargue. “I’ve worked with

some for 10 to 15 years. I’m able to get to know the flyers and develop a relationship. That relationship helps me to be a better flight surgeon for them. That’s an advantage we have over flight surgeons on active duty,” said McHargue.

“During our medical readiness exercise to the Esmeraldes Province of Ecuador in July 1998, I got to experience first hand the enormity of Col. McHargue's talents and the boundlessness of her spirit,” said Col. Rita B. Richardson, commander, 349th CH.

“Just being a flight surgeon in the Air Force Reserve is the highlight of my career,” McHargue added. “This job and the Air Force Reserve have provided me with great opportunities. Active duty flight surgeons only treat patients. Here, we have to assume many different roles, in addition to treating patients. You have a chance to experience a lot more.”

She uses her vast experience and knowledge base to insure a good fit is found for healthy service members, both flying and non-flying,” said Col. Cynthia A. Jones Sanders, commander, 349th Medical Group.

McHargue's prescription for success is simple. “Early in my career, my chief flight surgeon, Dr. John Meyers, told me that my job was to ‘keep them flying and to keep them well,’” said McHargue.

“She is simply the best at everything she does,” said Col. Philip D. Webb, vice commander, 349th AMW. ✈

Photo by Technical Sgt. Marvin Meek

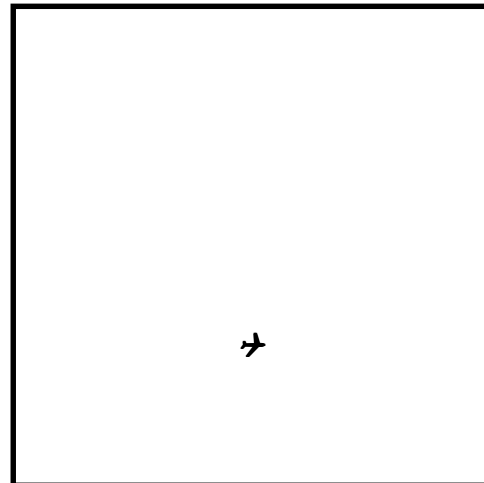
Reservist's compete in bowling qualifier

By Staff Sgt. Shayne Sewell

The Travis Bowling Center hosted the USA bowling team qualifier on June 8 and 15. Local bowlers from Fairfield, Vacaville, Suisun, and Travis Air Force Base participated in the event. Top honors went to Master Sgt. Edward L. Chappell, aircraft metals technician, 349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron who bowled with an 874 (218.5 average) series for four games. Second place went to Sam Rothenbaum, an 869 series, followed by Dick Young, an 864 series, and Technical Sgt. Todd M. Hyman, 312th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, bowled with an 851 series. Aaron Brown

followed with an 830 series.

The next qualifier they will participate in will be in the bay area during October. They will bowl 14 games over two days for a chance to represent California at the Nationals held in Reno, Nevada. The ultimate goal of qualifying at Nationals in Reno is to be one of the 12 selected individuals to represent Team USA. The United States Olympic Team selects from the 12 who make Team USA. "It's quite an honor to make Team USA and tour the world bowling, with a chance to bowl in the Olympics," said Chappell. Good luck to our fellow bowlers in the future events!



Courtesy photo.

Chappell practices at the Travis Bowling Center to prepare for the bay area bowling qualifier in October.

Enlisted Oath Wall

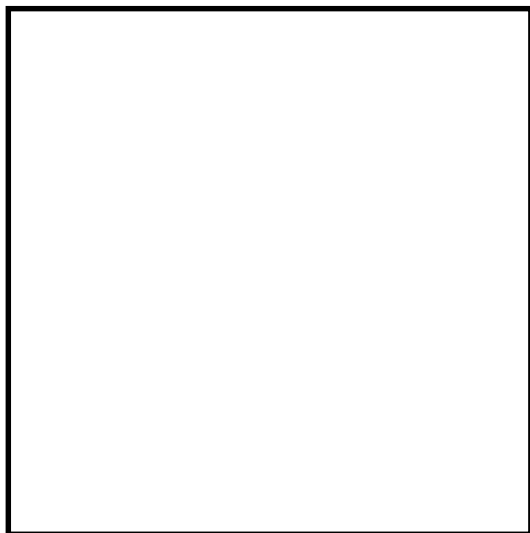


photo by Staff Sgt. Robin Jackson

Maj. Richard G. Weller, commander, 55th Aerial Port Squadron reenlists Senior Airman Michael A. Gray, information controller, 55th APS at the Enlisted Oath Wall located on the corner of Travis Ave. and Burgan Blvd.

The enlisted wall was dedicated in March and began as a Year of the Enlisted Force initiative aimed at helping people remember the contributions of the enlisted force to Air Force history.

The wall consists of a semi-circle structure with the enlisted oath. The walkway leading up to the wall contains three marble slabs depicting the rank chevrons of the enlisted tiers.

349TH LOGISTICS GROUP AIRMAN, NCO AND SENIOR NCO OF THE QUARTER

**MASTER SGT. MARTIN S. BLAND (349TH AGS)
SENIOR NCO FOR 2ND QUARTER 1999**

**TECHNICAL SGT. DANIEL G. WILLERS (749TH AGS)
NCO FOR 2ND QUARTER 1999**

**SENIOR AIRMAN ZACHARY D. PATTERSON (349TH CRS)
AIRMAN FOR 2ND QUARTER 1999**

COHEN, SHELTON RAP TIMES' EDITORIAL ON ANTHRAX SHOTS

WASHINGTON — Halting mandatory anthrax shots would represent a “significant disservice” to men and women in uniform, Defense Secretary William Cohen and Gen. Henry Shelton said in a written rebuttal to the Army Times Publishing Co.

The July 12 editorial in the company's Army, Air Force, Navy and Marine Times newspapers said the Department of Defense should let service members choose whether to receive the shots until more testing is done to determine if the vaccine may cause long-term health effects. Secretary Cohen and General Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said their greatest concern is to adequately protect service members serving in combat zones or anywhere anthrax may be a threat, and making vaccinations optional could diminish military battle readiness.

At least 10 potential adversaries have worked to develop anthrax as an offensive weapon, they said. “Our commanders must know that all, not simply some fraction, of their forces are protected from this biological threat,” the secretary and chairman wrote. “Soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines fight in teams, and they need to know that all team members are protected from anthrax.”

The two defense leaders compared receiving the shots to wearing protective equipment. “Wearing helmets in battle isn't voluntary because everybody needs protection,” they said. “The same is true of anthrax. Allowing a voluntary vaccination program is inadequate in the face of this deadly threat. It would be unconscionable not to protect our entire force with a safe and effective vaccine,” they said.

Immunization requires six shots over a period of 18 months. About 300,000 service members have begun the series since Secretary Cohen ordered the mandatory inoculations in early 1998, and about 1 million shots have been given to date.

Secretary Cohen and General Shelton challenged an assertion the anthrax vaccine hasn't been properly tested for safety. They said the Food and Drug Administration first licensed the vaccine nearly 30 years ago, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization and Institute of Medicine endorse its use. They said the vaccine manufacturer, BioPort Corp. of Lansing, Mich., works under a compliance plan approved by the FDA to ensure quality and is on schedule to meet DoD needs.

Readers can find the full text of the Cohen-Shelton response www.defenselink.mil/specials/anth_ed.html.

For more information on anthrax, visit these sites:

Food and Drug Administration: www.fda.gov

Johns Hopkins Univ.: www.hopkins-biodefense.org

Mayo Clinic: www.mayo.edu

National Institutes of Health: www.nih.gov

American Medical Assoc.: www.ama-assn.org

World Health Organization: www.who.org

CIVILIAN APPRAISAL PROGRAM CHANGES

WASHINGTON (AFP) — By next spring, Air Force civilians will be evaluated under a new appraisal program.

The change is in response to feedback from supervisors, commanders and employees for a simpler and less time-consuming system.

“The job of appraising Air Force civilian employees is a very important responsibility,” said Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel Lt. Gen. Donald L. Peterson. “While our old appraisal system served us well in the past, the new appraisal system is in direct response to customer feedback.”

There are three major changes in the program. First, the new program will move to a two-level rating system: acceptable and unacceptable performance. Civilian employees will be rated on whether they meet or fail to meet performance element requirements.

Second, impact on mission accomplishment statements will be required for grades 14 and 15 for use in GS-15 screening boards. According to Air Force personnel officials, writing these statements is generally less work than is currently required to justify exceeding performance elements. The impact statements are optional for other grades.

Third, the new system includes a mandatory feedback form. The law requires feedback once during the rating cycle and Air Force officials say the form facilitates the discussion between supervisor and employee.

Management has until December to negotiate implementation with local unions and allow at least 90 days under the new program — the minimum appraisal period — to render ratings in March 2000 using the new system.

PETERS CONFIRMED AIR FORCE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Whit Peters was confirmed by Congress July 30 as the secretary of the Air Force.

During his confirmation hearings July 21, Peters testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee on a broad range of subjects including the F-22, recruitment, retention and the expeditionary aerospace force. He now sheds the title of acting secretary that he's carried for the past 20 months.

“I greatly appreciate the confidence and trust the President, Secretary [William S.] Cohen and the Senate have placed upon me to lead our nation's Air Force into the 21st Century,” said Peters.

“I look forward to serving our nation with the same sense of pride, dedication and commitment demonstrated by our outstanding Air Force men and women. They serve proudly, with great professionalism and make enormous sacrifices on behalf of our great nation. It is truly a privilege to be a part of the Air Force family.”

AIR FORCE TURNS TO PRIOR-SERVICE MEMBERS TO HELP FILL SHORTAGES

WASHINGTON — In light of sliding retention and the first projected recruiting shortfall in 20 years, the Air Force is turning to prior-service members interested in rejoining the service to help fill critical manning needs.

While not a new concept, the Enlisted Prior Service Program isn't something the Air Force has used extensively since the manning draw-down of the early 1990s. Before that, it was not uncommon for 1,000 to 3,000 prior-service recruits to participate in the program, said Chief Master Sgt. Danny Roby, chief of enlisted accession policy for the Air Force.

This year, for the first time in more than a decade, the Air Force doubled its target of prior-service recruits from 300 to 600. So far in fiscal 1999, 424 prior-service recruits have returned to active duty, up from the 196 who came back last year.

"The program was originally created to help meet overall recruiting needs and fill experience shortfalls within certain career fields," Roby said. "For the Air Force, the ability to put a trained, experienced person in a vacancy that is impacting the mission is one of the biggest benefits of the program." While bringing back 600 airmen may not seem like enough to make a dent in the Air Force's anticipated shortfall of 2,500 new recruits for 1999, it's just one piece of the puzzle said the chief.

"It doesn't seem very high unless one of those airmen is going out to a unit that's working 14 or 15 hours a day because they're one or two people short. Then, it's a lot," he said. As the number of prior-service recruits the Air Force would like to bring back increases, so does the number of Air Force specialties in which prior-service recruits are needed.

A list that was once limited to a very small group of career fields targeting hard-to-fill specialties like combat controllers, pararescue and linguists has expanded to include all career fields with less than 100 percent manning. Out of a total of 210 Air Force specialties, 117 are open to prior-service recruits who meet eligibility requirements.

In most cases, meeting eligibility requirements means potential applicants must be an E-4 to E-6 with less than 12 years of total active federal military service. Prior-service recruits interested in coming back on active duty in the Air Force should contact their local recruiter.

AWARD OF ARMED FORCES RESERVE MEDAL WITH "M" DEVICE

Reserve members who participated in active duty status in support of a call-up or designated contingency operation on or after 1 Aug 90 are eligible to wear the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with the "M" device.

Participation in the following operations qualifies the wear of the medal: Allied Force (Kosovo); Joint Endeavor/

Guard/Force (Bosnia); Desert Fox (Persian Gulf); Uphold Democracy (Haiti); Restore Hope (Somalia); Desert Shield/Storm (Persian Gulf).

To qualify, reserve members must have orders that voluntarily or involuntarily recalled them to active duty in support of the above operations.

Published orders voluntarily or involuntarily calling reservists to active duty during the Kosovo call up must cite duty was in support of Operation Allied Force for eligibility of the AFRM with the "M" device.

For more information, please call your orderly room or the Military Personnel Flight at (707) 424-3550.

AIR FORCE RAISES FLYING TRAINING AGE LIMIT

WASHINGTON (AFPN) — The Air Force is raising flying training age limits in an effort to increase opportunities for otherwise qualified candidates. This is the first change of this type in 45 years.

The change raises the age limit for applicants for pilot and navigator training from 27 and a half to 30 years of age and less than five commissioned years of service. This policy is effective with the fiscal 2000 flying training boards which meet Oct. 26-29.

The age limit, which has been 27, plus or minus half a year, since 1953, is being lifted to broaden the pool of qualified applicants.

This policy will affect Reserve Officer Training Corps, Officer Training School, prior-enlisted, and late-rated candidates — those who serve more than one year as a commissioned officer in a non-rated Air Force specialty.

"The new age limits allow prior-enlisted and OTS candidates an additional two and one-half years to fulfill requirements and become competitive," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Michael E. Ryan. "For late-rated personnel, the new age restriction will allow people to complete their initial commitment for their previous training, and still compete for flying training slots."

AIR FORCE ACADEMY PREP SCHOOL OPEN TO RESERVISTS

ROBINS AIR FORCE BASE, Ga. - Enlisted reservists who want to become Air Force officers may pursue their dreams by applying to the U.S. Air Force Academy Preparatory School.

Each year the academy offers 85 of its 240 prep school student authorizations to members of the Air Force Reserve Command and Air National Guard to attend the 10-month course, which begins in late July for students ages 17 to 21.

More information is available by calling the academy at 1-800-443-8187 or logging onto the academy website: www.usafa.af.mil

IN MEMORY OF...

Technical Sgt. Keith L. Retzlaff

"The 349th Air Mobility Wing mourns the death of one of its members, Technical Sgt. Keith L. Retzlaff, assigned to the 349th Memorial Affairs Squadron. Retzlaff's military career began in the U.S. Navy where he served a tour of duty in Vietnam. After his enlistment in the Navy, he enlisted in the Army National Guard. In February 1997, Retzlaff enlisted in the Air Force Reserve. He had proven himself to be an immensely significant resource to the 349th MAS because of his knowledge and understanding in his various active duty, guard and reserve positions.

Retzlaff had over twenty years of experience in the services arena. While assigned to the 349th, he was a team leader and supervisor who was instrumental in ensuring the unit had a smooth transition in becoming one of only two Port Mortuary squadrons in the Air Force. He always volunteered for the toughest assignments and got the best results through sheer personal dedication and professional pride. These included two overseas deployments, refurbishing the squadron's essential equipment and deploying to Dover Air Force Base, Del., to assist in the processing of the Americans killed in the bombing of the Nairobi Embassy.

In any situation, there was no finer role model. He truly loved his country, family, and serving in the armed forces. Everyone who knew Keith will miss his character, leadership, and enormous presence."

-Command Chief Master Sgt. Anthony L. Maddux

Courtesy photo.

Technical Sgt. Keith L. Retzlaff

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AEROMEDICAL EVACUATION
SQUADRON.

photo by Technical Sgt. Marvin Meek